

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

PENRITH URBAN

DISTRICT COUNCIL,

For the year ending December 31st, 1895,

BY

D. G. PEARCE THOMSON, M.B.C.M.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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REPORT.

During the year 1895, 190 deaths were recorded in the Urban District of Penrith, against 157 recorded in the previous year.

GENERAL MORTALITY.

Of these deaths, 178 occurred in the Urban District, and 12 in the Workhouse, being 3 less in the Workhouse, and 36 more in the Urban District than in 1894.

ANNUAL MORTALITY.

The population during 1895 has been estimated at 9240 persons and with this number as a basis, the death rate per 1000 is calculated at 19·26 for the District excluding the deaths in the Workhouse. This is much higher than last year, when the death rate was only 15·33. The average death rate, calculated on the years 1885-95 inclusive, was 20·66, so that this year the death-rate is slightly below the average stated.

BIRTH-RATE.

The births during the year numbered 269, of which 35 were illegitimate. The birth rate is calculated as 29·11 per 1000, as against 27·16 last year, showing an increase in the rate of 1·95 per 1000. The legitimate birth-rate is 25·32 and the illegitimate rate 3·79 per 1000.

In the following table I have compared the death and birth rates from 1886-95, but it must be understood that no claim to perfect accuracy is put forward in the calculated figures :—

COMPARISON OF DEATH RATES AND BIRTH RATES
FROM 1886-1895.

	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	Avge.
Population ...	9695	9790	9885	9980	10075	8981	8838	8940	9240	9240	
Tl. No. of Deaths	181	180	188	188	177	216	131	176	142	178	175·7
An'ual death rate	18·6	18·38	19·1	18·8	17·5	21·6	15·1	19·68	15·33	19·26	18·33
Tl. No. of Births	293	246		209	233	251	227	281	251	269	251·1
An'ual birth rate	30·2	25·12		29·9	28·1	27·9	25·68	31·43	27·16	29·11	28·29

In the following table I have shown the ages at which *all the death occurred, arranged in "age groups."*

TABLE OF THE AGES AT WHICH DEATHS OCCURRED IN THE YEARS
1892—1895.

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	Average.
Under 1 year of age	29	34	33	34	32·5
Between 1 and 5 years	8	22	14	13	14·25
Between 5 and 15 years.....	2	9	7	8	6·5
Between 15 and 25 years...	3	9	6	3	5·25
Between 25 and 65 years...	36	50	34	58	44·5
Over 65 years of age	53	51	48	62	53·75
Totals.....	131	176	142	178	

INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of infant deaths in the above table is the most striking fact, the percentage of infant deaths to births registered amounting to no less than 12·63. Seeing that about 8 per cent is the standard rate in a district such as this, it shows that some of these deaths should be avoidable under proper conditions. The percentage of deaths of infants to the total number of deaths is 17·89.

The following table shows the causes of infant deaths :—

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.					
1.—Pulmonary Diseases	...	...	...	...	5
2.—Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	0
3.—Diet Diseases	{	Convulsions	5	}	9
		Marasmus	4		
4.—Congenital Diseases	{	Premature Births	10	}	16
		Congenital Debility ...	6		
5.—Other Causes	{	Accident	1	}	4
		Overlaid in bed	1		
		Introsusception	1		
		Tubercular Meningitis	1		
					34

Looking to the high illegitimate death rate and the large number of infant deaths, I find that while we have 14 deaths of illegitimate children recorded during the year, no less than 8 of those were under 1 year of age, a percentage of 22·86 of the number of such children born. These 8 deaths were caused as follows :— 3 from marasmus, 1 from bronchitis, 1 from congestion of the lungs, 1 from congenital debility, and 2 were premature births. All these deaths were practically avoidable, and most of them point to want of care on the part of those responsible for them.

With regard to the whole of the deaths in the Urban District I have drawn up the following tables as to their causation :—

	1895.	1894.
Diseases of the heart	31	13
Diseases of the lungs	17	23
Phthisis	10	12
Accidents	4	3
Measles	0	4
Scarlet fever	1	2
Whooping cough	0	1
Diphtheria	1	0
Membraneous croup	0	1
Influenza	10	1
Puerperal fever... ..	1	0
All other causes	103	97
	<hr/> 178	<hr/> 157

Taking the whole of the 190 deaths, the causes are :—

Respiratory diseases	20
Cardiac disease..	31
Phthisis	10
Infectious diseases	13
Tubercular diseases	10
Malignant disease	9
Apoplexy	13
Diseases of alimentary tract and liver	9
Diseases of urinary system	3
Diseases of nervous system	11
Accidents and suicides	7
Senile debility	25
Other causes not classified	29
	<hr/> 190

It will be seen from the above table that the deaths from Heart disease are very much larger in number than in the previous year. This I ascribe to the influence of the epidemic of Influenza which prevailed early in the year, and to the intensely cold weather, which told very severely on the aged and infirm. Curiously, the deaths from diseases of the Lungs are less than in 1894, but no conclusion is warranted from such a decrease in any one year. The deaths ascribed to Influenza are 10 in number, but these deaths in nearly all the cases were due to the complications following this disease, and it is really the sequelæ of Influenza which render it such an extremely dangerous malady. The complications in these cases were as follows :—Bronchitis 2, Pneumonia 2, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis 1, Tubercular Meningitis 3, and the deaths occurred at all ages ranging from 2 years to 74 years.

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.

The annual mortality from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases is .32 per thousand, which compares favourably with last year, when it was .54. The percentage of this class of deaths to the total deaths is 1.57, as against 3.18 last year.

The number of such deaths was 3 as against 11 last year, and they are 1 from Scarlet Fever, 1 from Diphtheria, and 1 from Puerperal Fever. During the year no deaths have occurred from either Measles, Whooping Cough, or Diarrhæa.

ZYMOTIC SICKNESS.

SCARLET FEVER.—During the year we have had an extensive epidemic of Scarlet Fever, which, although mild in character has still been very widespread over the district. All precautions possible have been taken, but without effect as regards the stay of the disease. I ascribe this to the mildness of the malady as in many cases the affection has been so mild as to lead to no advice being sought, and the children have gone about spreading the disease. Only one death occurred, and that was certified to be from Diarrhœa following Scarlet Fever. In all 87 cases have been notified, of which most were in the later months of the year. Of these cases 48 were removed to the Isolation Hospital on the Fairhill. In all the cases disinfection of the houses was carried out by or under the supervision of the officials of the Sanitary Authority. Several of the earlier cases were due to foreign infection.

ENTERIC FEVER.—No less than 8 cases of this disease have been reported. Two of these cases occurred in a small house about two miles from Penrith. Here the conditions both with regard to water supply and sewage disposal were very much at fault, the privy was ordered to be removed and a new well to be sunk away from the present source of supply. One case was apparently due to eating mussels, but I was unable to trace from where the shellfish came. In another case the drains were in a very bad state and they have been repaired, disconnected, and ventilated. In another case a disused cellar was found to have a drain pipe running through it, and the place was in a very unsanitary condition. This was remedied at once. Another case occurred in the house in which the Scarlet Fever case died, but no special local condition could be found. In the remaining two cases nothing could be found which could be said to cause the disease. In none of the cases was there a fatal issue.

DIPHTHERIA.—Two cases were reported, and one of these died. The fatal case was in a street much inhabited by hawkers and such floating population and may have been caused by outside infection. The other case was in a house where no unsanitary condition existed.

ERYSIPELAS.—Five cases were reported, several of them in very dirty houses, but they none of them call for any comment.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—One case of this disease occurred with a fatal issue. All precautions were taken with the nurses attending the case.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply of Penrith is the same as in my last report, no change having taken place.

HOSPITAL.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital has been in use during the year but certain additions and alterations are to be carried out, among which is the crection of a special disinfecting chamber with a steam disinfecting apparatus. This formed the subject of an enquiry held by Dr. Thompson, one of your Board's medical inspectors.

SEWERAGE.

The whole question of the more efficient sewerage of the town has been under the consideration of the District Council, and a report on the present system with suggestions as to its improvement and reconstruction has been prepared by the Surveyor. The Council has decided to have the question brought before an engineer with regard to its being undertaken.

SANITARY.—Numerous inspections have been made during the past year, and the unsanitary conditions noticed have been remedied. I have enumerated below those conditions which have been reported and dealt with satisfactorily. As well as those mentioned some are still undone, but are being attended to. All the conditions mentioned below have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and have been put in a sanitary condition. The same remedial measures as mentioned in last year's report have been adopted in those cases.

I specify below the particulars of conditions mentioned :

Dirty and imperfectly ventilated houses and premises...	4
Defective water pipes... ..	3
Defective drains	37
Defective w.c.'s	41
Trough closets removed and w.c.'s substituted	2
Defective middensteads	1
Privies converted into w.c.'s... ..	9
Unsanitary yards	3
Sinkstone pipes directly connected with sewer	4
Ashpit removed	1
Untrapped urinal	1
Houses without privy or w.c.	2
Accumulations of rubbish removed... ..	3
Drains disconnected and ventilated	10
Cesspools removed	2
Piggeries	2
Stables without drains	2

127

The Bakehouses, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Lodging-houses have been inspected and are all in a satisfactory condition.

The whole of the Workshops in town have been inspected, and, where necessary, alterations and improvements have been suggested and carried out. A register of all those places has been compiled, and measurements were taken so as to obtain a sufficient air space for each worker. The workshops are on the whole in a fairly satisfactory condition.

The tables required by the Local Government Board and also a weekly mortality chart are appended.

D. G. PEARCE THOMSON, M.O.H.

February 14th, 1896.

TABLE OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1895,

IN THE

PENRITH URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

(A.)

CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DISEASES, AGES AND LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; public institutions being shown as separate localities. <i>(Columns for Population and Births are in table B).</i>	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.									
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	(i)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
									Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	TOTAL
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)										
Urban District ...	178	34	13	8	3	58	62	Under 5 5 upwds	1	1	1	10	6	29	8	2	73	130
Workhouse ...	12	1	0	0	0	2	9	Under 5 5 upwds					3	2			1	1
TOTALS	190	35	13	8	3	60	71	Under 5 5 upwds	1	1	1	10	9	31	8	2	79	141

Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS; and of New Cases of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the

PENRITH URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT,

(B.)

CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DISEASE, AGES, AND LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics; Public In- stitutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the know- ledge of the Medical Officer of Health.						Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isola- tion Hospital.		
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.			1	2	3	4	5	1			
					Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typh'd Fev'r	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Scarlatina.			
(a)			(d)	(e)									
Urban Sanitary District ...	8981	9240	269	Under 5 5 upwds.	33	1	1		1	13			
					54	1	7	1	4	35			
TOTALS				Under 5 5 upwds.	33	1	1		1	13			
					54	1	7	1	4	35			

TABLE C.

Analysis of Births and Mortality for the year 1895, showing the Births, Deaths, and Rate of Mortality in the year 1895.

Births.	Deaths.	Birth-rate.	ANNUAL RATE OF MORTALITY PER 1000 FROM				
			All Causes.	Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases.	Phthisis.	Lungs.	Heart.
269	190	29.11	19.26	.32	1.08	1.83	3.35

Percentage of Deaths under 1 year to Births registered.	PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS					
	Of Infants under 1 year.	Of Persons over 65 years.	From 7 Principal Zymotic Diseases.	From Phthisis.	From Lungs.	From Heart.
12.91	17.89	38.94	1.57	5.26	8.94	16.31

TABLE D.

Shewing the Rate of Mortality in each Quarter of 1895.

Quarter ending	Death-rate per 1000 from all causes.	PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS.		
		Of Infants under 1 year.	Of persons over 65 years.	From 7 principal Zymotic Diseases.
March 31st ...	24·24	16·07	35·71	Nil.
June 30th ...	20·32	6·38	31·91	2·12
September 30th ...	18·16	33·3	33·3	Nil.
December 31st... ..	14·28	24·24	39·08	6·06

TABLE E.

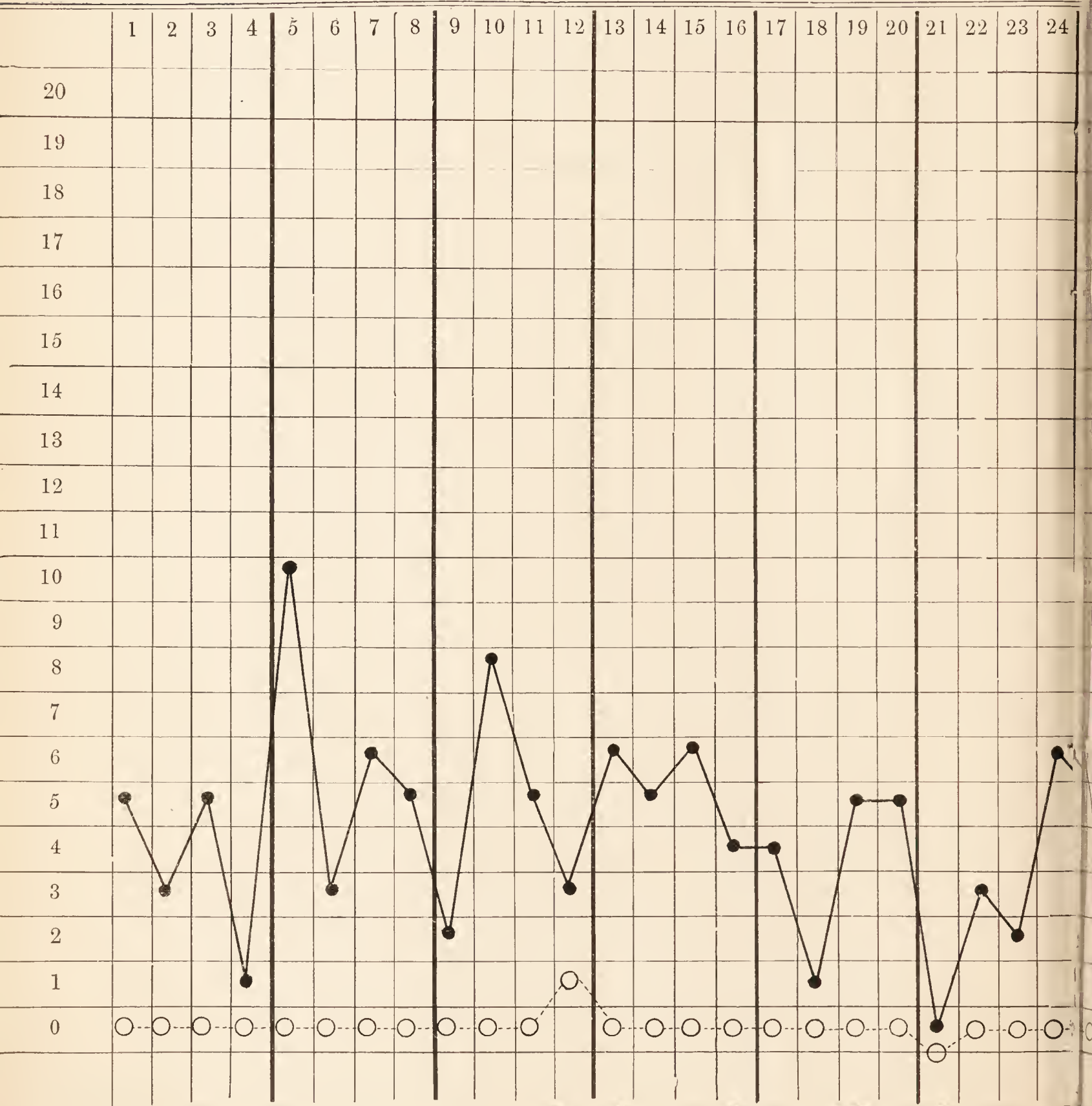
Shewing the Births, Legitimate and Illegitimate, in each Quarter of 1895.

Quarter ending	Total Births.	LEGITIMATE.			ILLEGITIMATE.		
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
March 31st ...	64	28	25	53	7	4	11
June 30th ...	77	35	34	69	4	4	8
September 30th	75	27	36	63	7	5	12
December 31st	53	24	25	49	2	2	4
TOTALS	269	114	120	234	20	15	35

MORTALITY C

Shewing the Deaths from all causes, and from tl

The upper line describes the weekly course of the general death-
the column represent the number of weeks, the figures at the side the



THE YEAR, 1895

or infectious diseases in each week of the year.

the dotted line, of the zymotic death-rate. The figures at the top of
r of deaths.

